

TO THE NEW DALMATIAN OWNER

Congratulations! You have chosen a puppy of the breed that is dearest to our hearts. This information will help you and your new companion have a long, happy life together. In all cases, any questions or concerns should be directed to your breeder who is your best source of information for the life of your dog.

The Dalmatian is a very social breed. He NEEDS human attention. Your new puppy needs to be part of the family. If left alone for long periods of time, or abandoned to even a well fenced yard, he will not be a good friend to you. His attempts to gain your attention may leave your yard in shambles and make for a miserable dog and owner. Don't just take this puppy home.... Take him into your home, into your family and into your heart.

The Dalmatian is a very intelligent and active dog. He NEEDS structure in his life. He needs a job to do. Obedience training is an excellent way to provide him with a function, as well as something to think about between practices. Contact your breeder for referrals to excellent training classes in your area. There are even special classes for puppies available. You can't start too early to begin the learning process.

Your female Dalmatian will be old enough to be spayed at around 9-12 months or after her first season. Males should not be neutered until they have reached at least 18 mo so that all growth processes can be completed. Your dog will be much happier and healthier when altered. Studies have proven that spaying/neutering provides a measure of protection from mammary or uterus cancer in the female and testicular cancer in the male.

The Dalmatian is a highly energetic dog. Remember what he was bred to do and that is to accompany a coach for many miles a day. This translates to a lot of energy. He needs exercise and lots of it. He is a wonderful jogging companion when the time is right, enjoys bicycling and, of course, long walks. Many enjoy a good rousing game of ball or Frisbee. Without an outlet for this energy, your home may suffer. Boredom and lack of exercise has destroyed many a couch over the years. Routine outings will be fun for both you and your dog and help to cement that all important bond between you.

Enjoy your new family member. His is the only love that money can buy.

